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Carya amara Nutt. = *H. minima* (Marsh.) Britt.
Leersia virginica Willd. = *Homalocenchrus virginica* (Willd.) Britt.
Leersia oryzoides Swartz = *Homalocenchrus oryzoides* (L.) Poll.
Phragmites communis Trin. = *P. vulgaris* (Lam.) B. S. P.
Chamæcyparis sphæroidea Spach. = *C. thyoides* (L.) B. S. P.
Pinus inops Ait. = *P. virginiana* Mill.
Pinus mitis Michx. = *P. echinata* Mill.
Picea nigra Link. = *Picea mariana* (Mill.) B. S. P.
Larix americana Michx. = *L. laricina* (DuRoi) B. S. P.

Many other changes might be cited, but these will serve to show the treatment of the vexed question of nomenclature and synonymy. While some of the changes are quite startling and uncomfortable, there can be little doubt that a rigid enforcement of the "law of priority" will eventually result in a greater fixity of names than now exists.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

The West American Oaks.[2]—Dr. Albert Kellogg began the preparation of a series of drawings to illustrate the oaks, pines, and other trees of the Pacific coast of the United States, intending to accompany them by appropriate descriptions, but death closed his work long before it came to completion. Now, through the munificence of Mr. McDonald and the aid of Professor Greene, the work is brought out in an appropriate form.

The first species figured and described is *Quercus kelloggii* Newberry, which bears a strong resemblance to the eastern red oak (*Q. rubra*). It is the *Q. sonomensis* Benth. of DeCandolle's "Prodromus." Then follow *Q. morehus* Kellogg, *Q. wizlizeni* A.DC., and *Q. agrifolia* Nee, all apparently related, although the first is deciduous and the others evergreen. *Q. hypoleuca* Engelm. is a narrow-leaved species quite distinct from the preceding. *Q. garryana* Dougl. and *Q. lobata* Nee, are closely related, and resemble the white oak of the eastern United States. The last-named species is the *Q. hindsii* Benth. of the Pacific Railroad Reports. *Q. gambelii* Nutt. is still more like the white oak, both in leaf and acorn. It is a shrub of six to eight feet in height, or a middle-sized tree from thirty to sixty feet high, with a trunk three feet in diameter. The tree form is confined to the "middle and higher elevations of the mountains of southern New Mexico and Arizona, and of adjacent Mexico." The smaller form occurs upon lower ground from central Colorado and Utah to the borders of Texas and Mexico. It is the *Q. alba* var. *gunnisoni* of Torrey, the *Q. douglasii* var. *gambelii* of A. DeCandolle, and the *Q. undulata* var. *gambelii* of Engelmann.

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[2] Illustrations of West American Oaks. From drawings by the late Albert Kellogg, M.D., the text by Edward L. Greene. Published from funds provided by James M. McDonald, Esq., San Francisco, May, 1889. 4to, pp. xii + 47, with XXIV. plates.

West American Oaks. Part II., San Francisco, June, 1890, pp. 52 to 84, with plates XXV. to XXXVII.

Of the remaining species the most notable are *Q. chrysolepis* Leibmann and *Q. densiflora* Hook. and Arnott, the latter evidently related to the chestnut (Castanea), both in foliage and fruit. The former enjoys the distinction of being "the most valuable oak of the Pacific forests." Like many other western species, it has passed under several other names, viz., *Q. pulvescens* Kellogg, and *Q. crassipocula* Torrey.

The second part of the work contains plates of ten species and varieties never before figured. It is a supplement to the work of the lamented Kellogg, and is most fittingly added to it. The newly-figured species are: *Q. palmeri* Engelm., *Q. turbinella* Greene, *Q. tomentella* Engelm., *Q. macdonaldi* Greene, and its variety *elegantula* Greene, *Q. fendleri* Leibmann, *Q. jacobi* R. Brown Campst., *Q. gilberti* Greene, *Q. venustula* Greene, *Q. dumosa* forma *polycarpa* Greene.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

The Flora of Nebraska.[3]—Nebraska has an interesting flora. Its geographical position, stretching from the mountains on the west across the arid plains to the rich prairies on the east, and a midway latitude between north and south, is strong indication of the fact. The well-known catalogue of Nebraska plants by Samuel Aughey, published fifteen years ago, upon data now known to have been sadly defective, contained such a wealth of plant names that it has led botanists ever since to believe in the superior richness of the flora.

The really earnest and careful study of the State flora dates from the connection of Professor C. E. Bessey with the State University at Lincoln. Upon his entrance into the State the collection of a representative herbarium was begun, together with a study of the economic features of the vegetation. Valuable papers upon different portions of the work have been published from time to time, the latest of which is given in the Annual Report of Nebraska State Board of Agriculture for 1889, recently issued.

This paper is the official report of the botanist to the board, and covers 160 pages. The first part is an account of the grasses and forage plants of Nebraska, in which many practical suggestions and comments are introduced. So far 106 native species are known within the State, and 22 kinds that have been introduced as weeds. The

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[3] The Grasses and Forage Plants of Nebraska. By Charles E. Bessey, Ph.D. Catalogue of the Flora of Nebraska. By Herbert J. Webber, M.A. In Report of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture for 1889. Lincoln, 1890.